are doing everything in their power to combat this dire disease. The supply of free medicines, the deputation of special medical officers and the opening of medical institutions during all hours of the day have been arranged and it is for the people to take adequate advantage of the help thus afforded.

31. Municipal Government.—Since the close of 1093, the rate-payers of the towns of Colachel, Attungal, Mavelikara, Changanachery and Vaikom have been granted the privilege of electing four out of the seven non-official members of the respective Committees, so that at present all the 19 Town Improvement Committees in the State have a majority of their non-official members elected by the people. Non-official Presidents have been newly appointed for the Committees of Nagercoil and Mavelikara and a non-official Vice-President for the Committee of Kuzhittura. The system of compulsory vaccination has been extended to the towns of Kuzhittura, Vaikom, Parur and Tiruvalla. A set of rules has been passed for the regular inspection, by the Sanitary Commissioner, of the work of Town Improvement Committees in respect of matters relating to sanitation, vaccination and vital statistics. The new Municipal Bill, conferring considerably enhanced powers on Municipal Councils, has been considered in detail by the Legislative Council and is now awaiting final reading. When that enactment is placed on the statute book, ample opportunities will present themselves to the Municipalities to augment their resources and improve the moral and material condition of the people in the different towns. The question of the formation of Local Boards for the benefit of rural areas is also under the consideration of Government.

32. Medical Department.—Steps have been taken for the opening of new dispensaries at Taikattuseri and Cape Comorin, and a weekly branch dispensary has been opened at Santanpara in the High Range under the management of the Udumbanshola Medical Officer. The Fort Dispensary at Trivandrum has been raised to a hospital.

33. Department of Ayurveda.—The Department of Ayurveda has been thoroughly reorganised. The main features of the reorganisation are the revision of the curricula of studies in the Ayurveda Patasala on an up to date and scientific basis to suit modern requirements, the opening of a botanical garden for the cultivation of medicinal plants, and the establishment of an Ayurvedic Pharmacy and an Ayurvedic Hospital and Dispensary at Trivandrum. The Dispensary has been doing very useful work from the day of its opening on the 18th Karkadakam 1093, the number of out-patients treated during the first five months of 1094 reaching the high figure of 10,474. Till recently the Pharmacy merely supplied medicines for free distribution at the Dispensary, but arrangements have now been made for the sale of medicines to those who are willing to purchase them, the prices charged being cheap and intended to cover only the cost of preparation. The benefits of this system are fully appreciated by the public, as will be seen from the fact that during Vrischikam and Dhanu 1094, the first two months when it was in operation, medicines to the value of Rs. 448 were purchased from the Pharmacy.

EDUCATION.

34. General Statistics.—The number of recognised institutions in the State rose from 2,508 in 1092 to 2,828 in 1093 and their strength from 3,48,986 to 3,75,448, showing an increase of 320 schools and 26,462 scholars. On an average, there was one recognised school for every 2·5 square miles and 1,212 inhabitants, against 3·05 and 1,367 respectively in 1092. Private aided schools rose in number and strength from 1,264 and 1,19,280 to 1,394 and 1,35,697, and private unaided schools from 169 and 13,980 to 346 and 24,424 respectively. The non-departmental institutions thus increased in number by 21·4 per cent. and in strength by 20 per cent. As compared with these, the increase in the number of departmental schools from 1,075 to 1,088 was little more than nominal, while their strength showed a slight decline from 2,15,726 to 2,15,327. The increase in the number of private institutions and the steady accession to their strength tend to prove that the policy of the Government

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towards private agencies working in the field of education is bearing fruit and that popular confidence is growing in respect of those institutions. Of the total population of the State, 10·95 per cent. were attending recognised schools, while, if the strength in unrecognised schools were also taken into account, the corresponding percentage would be 11·9. The percentage of pupils in recognised schools to the population of school-going age, calculated at the usual rate of 15 per cent. of the total population, rose from 67·9 to 72·8, and including the pupils of unrecognised institutions, from 78·3 to 82·4. There was no taluk, except Devicolam with a large floating population, which did not return a ratio of more than 50 per cent., and the figures undoubtedly reflect the highest credit on the Department. The High Range has now been formed into a separate District and the Department proposes to devote special attention to the expansion of education in the Devicolam taluk during the current year.

35. English Education.—The strength in His Highness the Maha Raja's College rose from 468 to 561. The Director has been asked to enquire into and report on the question of providing adequate accommodation for the increasing number of students who seek admission into the College. The demand for education in English having become insistent and the people having expressed their willingness to contribute towards the initial as well as the recurring expenditure involved in the opening of higher classes in departmental schools, Form IV was opened in the Kayankulam, Neyattinkara and Kottarakara schools, and Form V in the Shertallay school. Form IV was also opened in the Chavara and Shencottah schools, the latter being liberally endowed by Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar, B. A. Higher forms were also opened in some private aided schools. A lower grade English school at Kotamangalam, and another for Mahomedans at Alleppey, were opened departmentally. The number of recognised English schools rose from 86 to 94 and their strength from 22,706 to 24,434. It is seen from the Director's report that, besides these, 18 private schools were conducted with departmental permission, though they were not actually recognised, and that 8 schools were run without such permission. As these schools, situated in 17 different taluks, are found to supply a real want, the Department has been asked to place them on a satisfactory footing and bring them under recognition, wherever possible. A scheme for the establishment of relief lower grade English schools was considered and decided upon. Government are glad to note the genuine and practical interest taken by the people in the spread of English education.

36. Vernacular Education.—The staff of Assistant Inspectors was further strengthened by the appointment of two more officers, the number of inspection districts being thus raised from 20 to 22. The number of Vernacular schools rose from 2,373 to 2,668 and their strength from 3,23,725 to 3,47,565. Class IX was opened in the Trivandrum, Quilon, Tiruvalla and Muvattupuzha Malayalam schools and Class VIII in the Kottar Tamil School. The number of schools brought under the system of partial recognition rose from 170 to 394. Rural schools increased in number from 15 to 45 and in strength from 479 to 2,019. Private rural schools were also opened during the year. It is gratifying to note that the system of rural schools is being appreciated by the people. The extension and improvement of school-buildings and the provision of noon-day meal to school children received special attention. The spread of Tamil education in purely Tamil taluks was encouraged.

37. Female Education.—The number of recognised institutions for girls increased from 343 to 352 and the number of girls under instruction from 1,01,288 to 1,13,997. The number of girls attending Colleges rose from 58 to 86 and those attending English schools from 3,019 to 3,348. There were 18 women students in the B. A. classes of the local Arts College, against 8 in 1092. An examination in Needle work qualifying for the appointment of Sewing mistresses was instituted, as also a Music Board for the guidance of the study of music in girls' schools.

38. Class Education.—Strenuous efforts were made for bringing under instruction more pupils belonging to the educationally backward communities and especially Malayala Brahmins, Ezhavas, Pulayas, Parayas, Mahomedans and Kuravas.

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